

the measures in other reports which appear in this issue.*

Just how strenuous a battle will later occur in connection with the State Administration's compulsory health act cannot be foretold. Unless signs are at fault, the bill will probably fail of enactment, and so will not be placed on the Governor's desk for signature. That does not mean, however, that its proponents will abate in their efforts to have such a law enacted in California.

The two measures sponsored by the House of Delegates at Coronado, in May, 1940 (pound law, and physicians' privileges on highways), failed to receive favorable committee consideration, and their fate is accordingly sealed, so far as the present legislative session is concerned.

In the list of bills printed in last month's issue are several that are worthy of special observation, and their course at Sacramento will be carefully followed by the Committee on Public Policy and Legislation.

Full reports concerning the status of the various measures will be given at Del Monte, probably at the Monday morning meeting, and also to the House of Delegates. Delegates will thus be able to transmit all information to component county societies.

MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS

Education of Medical Students an "Essential Profession."—At a time when the Government is making more than strenuous efforts to emphasize the need of a full-time output in "essential industries," it seems strange that the important rôle and place which medical men occupy in all armies and navies that are 100 per cent efficient, seemingly should not be properly appreciated by the constituted governmental and military authorities. For, under the present conditions, in a five-year military plan (and five years may be a minimum period) the United States will be dealing with armed forces comprehending a standing army of at least 1,500,000 men in service each year, with a possible four or more million to be inducted before the five-year set-up is put into practical operation.

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Army, Navy, "Essential Industry" Citizens, and Civil Population, All Require Well-Trained Physicians and Surgeons.—The havoc and demoralization, not only of the armed forces (but of men and women in the "essential industries," and of the millions of fellow citizens in civil life who are blood relatives to men in the Army and Navy), which could accrue through medical supervision that was lacking either in quality or quantity, or both, is something that must appall every physician who has given any thought thereto.

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Medical Students Worthy of Deferment Classification.—It is granted that it may be possible to take some 8,000 physicians from civil

practice and transplant them into military service without calamitous results of an immediate nature as regards the civilian population.

But not to safeguard the steady graduation and accession of well-trained physicians, year by year, for the next decade or so, through recognition of the eligibility of students in Class A medical schools to be placed in a deferment class, with as much right as men who are in "essential industries," is difficult to understand.

All are agreed that certain occupations related to production of war materials should be in the "essential industries" group. But, with the same reasoning and with as great or greater right, so also should medical students be placed in an "essential profession" group. Assuredly, the health and lives of our soldiers should be construed as quite as vitally important for conservation as is the uninterrupted output of war appliances and ammunition. If this fact is not realized, the day will come when citizens will rue their lack of foresight.*

POSTGRADUATE COURSES IN CALIFORNIA

Increasing Interest in Postgraduate Courses. Continuation or postgraduate work in California, as judged by the progress made in several states, may be said to be still in its infancy cycle. It is true that progress has been made in California, and during this last year, the increased interest in postgraduate courses has been particularly heartening. Especially so, since the component county societies that were the pioneers in the movement, are the very ones now giving to the postgraduate work its additional impetus. The conclusion to be drawn is that once the advantages of clinical, postgraduate or refresher courses have been demonstrated to county medical society members, the demand for continuation of the work makes itself evident. The Third Councilor District, for example, which held a postgraduate conference in Santa Barbara on March 29, will sponsor another refresher course this fall to be held in Bakersfield.

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Every County Society Should Have a Postgraduate Committee.—In recent issues of the OFFICIAL JOURNAL, brief mention has been made of county societies coöperating in these important activities. The hope is again expressed that every county society will appoint, as one of its standing groups, a postgraduate committee. The California Medical Association Postgraduate Committee, 450 Sutter, San Francisco, invites correspondence from every county society that has not yet taken up the work. The Central Office will be glad to advise and coöperate in fullest measure and requests the opportunity to be of service. If your society does not have a postgraduate committee, why not take steps to provide for its appointment at your next meeting?

* See Council report and minutes, pages 183 and 230.

* For other comment concerning medical preparedness, see page 233.